

What is claimed

1. A vacuum cleaner, comprising:
a housing;
a nozzle inlet;
5 a suction generator carried on said housing; and
a dirt cup carried on said housing, said dirt cup including a bottom wall, a sidewall, a dirt collection chamber, an air inlet to said dirt collection chamber in said bottom wall and an air outlet from said dirt collection chamber.
2. The vacuum cleaner claim 1, further including an air inlet conduit extending from said air inlet into said dirt collection chamber.
3. The vacuum cleaner of claim 2, further including an air deflector carried on said air inlet conduit.
4. The vacuum cleaner of claim 3, wherein said air deflector includes a support engaging said air inlet conduit and an arcuate air deflector section.
5. The vacuum cleaner of claim 4, wherein said air deflector further includes an annular screen section.

6. The vacuum cleaner of claim 5, wherein said support contacts said arcuate air deflector section and said annular screen section extends concentrically around said arcuate air deflector section.
7. The vacuum cleaner of claim 6, wherein said support includes an axial inlet opening and at least one radially directed outlet opening for directing air outwardly adjacent a concave surface of said arcuate air deflector section.
8. The vacuum cleaner of claim 7, wherein said air outlet in said dirt cup is an open end opposite said bottom wall.
9. The vacuum cleaner of claim 8, further including a filter element covering said air outlet.
10. The vacuum cleaner of claim 8, further including a filter assembly received over said air outlet.
11. The vacuum cleaner of claim 10, wherein said filter assembly includes a filter holder and a filter element held in said filter holder.
12. The vacuum cleaner of claim 11, wherein said filter element includes a frame holding a pleated filter material.

13. The vacuum cleaner of claim 12, wherein said dirt collection chamber is substantially cylindrical in shape.
14. The vacuum cleaner of claim 13, wherein said air inlet conduit is concentrically received within said sidewall in said dirt collection chamber.
15. The vacuum cleaner of claim 14, wherein said filter holder is annular and engages an exposed edge of said sidewall.
16. The vacuum cleaner of claim 15, wherein said filter holder includes a body and a lip defining a cavity holding said filter element.
17. The vacuum cleaner of claim 16, wherein said filter holder includes a tongue and said sidewall includes a groove, said tongue and groove mating when said filter holder is mounted on said dirt cup.
18. The vacuum cleaner of claim 17, wherein at least a portion of said dirt collection chamber is annular in shape.
19. The vacuum cleaner of claim 18, wherein said housing includes a nozzle section including said nozzle inlet and a canister section.
20. The vacuum cleaner of claim 19, wherein said nozzle section and said canister section are pivotally connected together.

21. A method of routing air through a vacuum cleaner, comprising:
drawing air into said vacuum cleaner through a nozzle;
directing air from the nozzle into a dirt cup through a bottom wall of
said dirt cup; and
5 exhausting clean air from said vacuum cleaner.
22. A method of directing an airstream in a dirt cup, comprising:
directing the airstream upwardly through the dirt cup in an air inlet
conduit;
discharging the airstream from said air inlet conduit into said dirt cup in
5 a substantially parabolic pattern; and
exhausting the airstream from said dirt cup.
23. A method of directing an airstream in a dirt cup, comprising:
directing the airstream upwardly through the dirt cup in an air
inlet conduit;
discharging the airstream from said air inlet conduit into said dirt cup in
5 a substantially hemihorn torus shape; and
exhausting the airstream from said dirt cup.
24. A dirt collection assembly, comprising:
a dirt cup including a sidewall, a bottom wall, an air inlet in said bottom
wall and an air outlet.